

Maine County-By-County Breakdown Shows the Harm of Not Extending Unemployment Insurance

3,300 in Maine set to lose coverage statewide

If Congress fails to extend the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation program at least 3,300 people in Maine will lose their insurance coverage immediately on Dec. 28. An additional 8,900 people in Maine will lose their coverage in the first six months of 2014 if Republicans continue to block an extension of the program.

Federal unemployment insurance took effect in 2008 and has been reauthorized several times since as Americans continue to recover from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Despite the real progress the economy has made since its near collapse in 2008, there are still 1.3 million fewer jobs than there were before the recession began and long-term unemployment as a percentage of the unemployed is 37 percent, near historic highs.

Failure to extend federal unemployment insurance would also hurt job growth throughout the nation, costing the economy 240,000 jobs, according to the White House Council of Economic Advisers. The CEA estimates that in Maine alone, failing to extend the program will cost 675 jobs.

COUNTY	# OF PEOPLE LOSING COVERAGE DEC. 28
Androscoggin	309
Aroostook	205
Cumberland	551
Franklin	73
Hancock	143
Kennebec	279
Knox	66
Lincoln	70
Oxford	143
Penobscot	377
Piscataquis	50
Sagadahoc	57
Somerset	174
Waldo	112
Washington	91
York	417
Out of State	183
Grand Total	3,300